

# The Advocate

*For and about small businesses and local governments affected by environmental regulations*

PD-006/04-02

Volume 9, Issue 2 / April - June 2004

## Expanded Learning Opportunities: Environmental Trade Fair and Clean Texas Conferences

For the first time, the TCEQ is offering the Clean Texas Partnership Conference concurrently with the Environmental Trade Fair and Conference. At these events, you can:

- attend seminars,
- earn continuing education credits,
- view the latest products and services of more than 300 exhibitors,
- learn about sustainable practices for communities and businesses, and
- hear about innovative environmental programs.

These dual events will take place May 3 through May 5 at the Austin Convention Center. The Texas Environmental Excellence Awards, pre-

**CLEAN TEXAS**



**CLEANER WORLD**

sented for outstanding environmental projects, will be awarded the evening of May 4. To get on the mailing list for this event, contact the Event Coordination and Education Section at 512/239-3150, or e-mail your name, address, and interest (exhibitor and/or attendee) to [etfc@tceq.state.tx.us](mailto:etfc@tceq.state.tx.us) ■

## Reduce Your Exposure to Electronics Disposal Regulations

Have you recently updated your company's computers, cell phones, fax machines or other electronic equipment? Is your old equipment stacked in a back room waiting for disposal? Instead of disposing of the equipment, save your company money, contribute to environmental quality, and reduce your exposure to state and federal regulations by donating or selling your surplus electronic equipment.

Because computers and other electronic equipment may contain hazardous materials, a business disposing of electronic equipment is a hazardous waste generator and must comply with all applicable laws and regulations. However, if a business donates or sells surplus electronic equipment for reuse or recycling, or contracts with a vendor to recycle electronic equipment, the business is not classified as a generator of hazardous waste or subject to

the rules. To guarantee that your business is free from liability, you should transfer ownership for all sold or donated equipment.



TCEQ has developed a list of computer and electronics recyclers. Simply visit [www.recycletexasonline.org](http://www.recycletexasonline.org) and click on "recycling electronic equipment."

If you decide to contract with a vendor to recycle or dispose of electronic equipment, ensure that the vendor:

- identifies and implements reuse, repair and recycling options;
- assumes generator status for all waste; and
- complies with all applicable laws and regulations.

For additional information, read TCEQ's *Summary of Regulations that Apply to the Recycling and Disposal of Electronic Products* available at [www.tnrc.state.tx.us/exec/sbea/recycling/electronics/RegSummary.pdf](http://www.tnrc.state.tx.us/exec/sbea/recycling/electronics/RegSummary.pdf) ■

## Tell Your Story to the TCEQ

The TCEQ commissioners welcome your input. If you would like to address the commissioners on any matter related to TCEQ business, you can speak for three minutes at an open microphone during any work session. The next work sessions, which take place in Austin, are tentatively scheduled for April 30, May 28, and June 25. For more information, see "Commissioners' Work Sessions" at [www.tnrc.state.tx.us/comm/agendas/](http://www.tnrc.state.tx.us/comm/agendas/) or call Forrest Brooks at 512/239-0578. ■

## Compliance Tools are a Click Away

The Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) Section has many tools to help you comply with environmental rules and regulations. Here are some that have been developed or updated recently.



### Updated/New Publications

- *An Environmental Guide for Texas Automotive Repair Shops* (RG-308)
- *Complying with Surface Preparation Rules* (RG-413)
- *Step-by-Step Guide to Registration, Operating, and Reporting Requirements for Transporting Sludge Wastes in Texas* (RG-309)
- *Evaporator Requirements for Metal Finishers* (RG-291a)
- *Tank Systems Requirements for Metal Finishers* (RG-291b)
- *MACT Standards for Chromium Electroplaters and Anodizers* (RG-402)
- *Unauthorized Discharges & Sanitary Sewer Overflows* (RG-395)

### Compliance Checklists, Fact Sheets, and Worksheets

- Public Water Supply compliance checklist
- Petroleum Storage Tank compliance checklist
- Pet Cemetery and Pet Crematory Frequently Asked Environmental Questions
- Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) worksheets and instructions

To find these compliance tools and more, visit [www.sblga.info](http://www.sblga.info) or call 1-800-447-2827. ■

## Do You Paint or Coat Things?

### These May Be Your Top Violations

- No air permit or permit by rule (PBR) prior to construction/operation.
- Not meeting distance limitations of PBR.
- No records of coating usage and/or no volatile organic compound (VOC) emission calculations (including Material Safety Data Sheets or product labels confirming VOC content of the coating).
- Waste handling and record-keeping violations such as:
  - ▼ inaccurate Notices of Registration,
  - ▼ no waste determinations,
  - ▼ no monthly accumulation records, and
  - ▼ leaving paint and solvent containers open.
- Hazardous waste handling and storage violations such as:
  - ▼ improper and/or no labeling of storage containers in satellite accumulation and designated container storage areas,
  - ▼ failure to keep waste containers closed except when adding waste,
  - ▼ storing too much waste on site, and
  - ▼ mixing listed spent solvent with waste paint.
- No industrial storm water permit or failure to implement storm water pollution prevention plan best management practices.
- Not using compliant coatings and proper application techniques and equipment (such as using HVLP spray guns) in ozone non-attainment and near non-attainment counties.
- Creating nuisance conditions such as:
  - ▼ paint overspray,
  - ▼ odors from coatings and paint thinners/solvents, and
  - ▼ odors from waste storage.

### Is Your Surface Coating Business in Compliance?

How do you know if your surface coating business is in compliance? Turn to these resources for help:

- Get *An Environmental Guide for Texas Surface Coaters* (RG-404), which guides you through all TCEQ regulations for surface coaters.
- Visit [www.sblga.info](http://www.sblga.info) and click on “Surface Coaters” for a complete list of helpful compliance tools.
- Participate in the SBLGA Site Visit program and receive a confidential evaluation of your site’s environmental compliance. If you correct any problems found during this initial visit and demonstrate complete compliance on a follow-up visit, you will qualify as a Compliance Commitment (C2) Partner. **Your reward? A one-year waiver of scheduled inspections by the TCEQ, the EPA, and local enforcement programs** in Houston, Galveston, Dallas, El Paso, and Fort Worth.
- Implement an environmental management system (EMS). *A Guide to Developing an Environmental Management System for a Small Business* (GI-304) describes the typical structure of an EMS and could give you ideas to put in place at your site. Among other benefits, an EMS often results in better environmental performance.

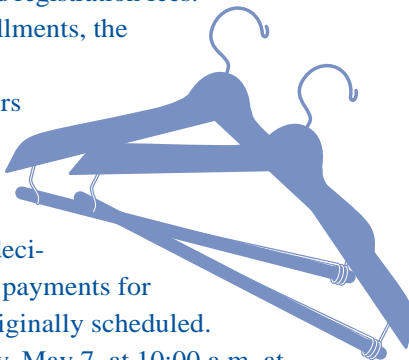
For more information, contact your local SBLGA specialist (see the box in this issue for contact information). ■

## Dry Cleaner Fund

The TCEQ continues to implement House Bill 1366 and to create an environmental remediation fund for dry cleaners. All dry cleaning facilities and drop stations already should have registered and paid registration fees. If you are paying your registration fee in installments, the third installment is due May 1, 2004.

The TCEQ recently decided that dry cleaners with separate drop stations who have opted out of the remediation fund will not be required to pay the full \$1,000 registration fee for the drop station at this time. This agency decision applies only to drop stations; installment payments for actual dry cleaning sites will still be due as originally scheduled.

A stakeholder meeting is planned for Friday, May 7, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCEQ Austin offices, 12100 Park 35 Circle. The meeting will be in Building E, Room 201S. For more information on this meeting, please visit [www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/vcp/dryclean.html](http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/vcp/dryclean.html), or call SBLGA at 1-800-447-2827. ■



## U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

### **WRPA (Waste Reduction Policy Act) Annual Progress Report Due July 1**

Contact Grace Hsieh at 512/239-1408 for more information.

#### **SBAC Meetings**

May 27, Beaumont, Small Business Advisory Committee,  
Charlie Adams, 409/899-8788

June 22, Dallas, Small Business Advisory Committee,  
Sandra Calderon Garcia, 817/588-5868

July 14, Fort Worth, Small Business Advisory Committee,  
Mike Smithson, 817/588-5836

July 22, Houston, Small Business Advisory Committee,  
Cynthia Williams, 713/767-3549

#### **Construction Storm Water Workshops**

May 19, Austin, Scott Weideman, 512/239-7015

June 17, San Antonio, Lynn Lindsay, 210/403-4039

#### **Border Hazardous Materials and Hazardous Waste Workshop**

May 11, Laredo, Carmen Ramirez, 956/721-8457

#### **Coating and Abrasive Supplier "Train-the-Trainer" Workshop**

June 8, Corpus Christi, Glenda Swierc, 361/825-3421

#### **Texas Public Works Association Meeting**

June 9 - 12, Abilene, Andy Anderson at 325/676-6284

#### **Environmental Trade Fair and Conference/Clean Texas Partnership Conference**

May 3 - 5, Austin Convention Center, 512/239-3150

#### **Texas Environmental Excellence Awards**

May 4, Austin Convention Center, 512/239-3150

## Local Specialists are Ready to Help You!

You have free, confidential help right in your back yard. Just check the list below for your local compliance assistance specialist:

#### **Region 1 (Amarillo)**

Ross Muir 806/468-0505

#### **Region 2 (Lubbock)**

Celeste Hoehne 806/788-5005

#### **Region 3 (Abilene)**

Mandy Ellifritz 325/698-6104

#### **Region 4 (Dallas/Ft. Worth)**

Mike Smithson 817/588-5836

Sandra Calderon Garcia 817/588-5868

#### **Region 5 (Tyler)**

Kathy Bell 903/535-5158

#### **Region 6 (El Paso)**

Pamela Aguirre 915/834-4971

#### **Region 7 (Midland)**

Kit Owens 432/620-6116

#### **Region 8 (San Angelo)**

George Ortiz 325/481-8061

#### **Region 9 (Waco)**

Elaine Alexander 254/761-3044

Polly Porter 254/761-3039

#### **Region 10 (Beaumont)**

Charlie Adams 409/899-8788

#### **Region 11 (Austin)**

Scott Wiedeman 512/239-7015

#### **Region 12 (Houston)**

Clarence Gray 713/767-3582

Cynthia Williams 713/767-3549

#### **Region 13 (San Antonio)**

Christine Bergren 210/403-4028

Lynn Lindsay 210/403-4039

#### **Region 14 (Corpus Christi)**

Glenda Swierc 361/825-3421

#### **Region 15 (Harlingen)**

Kevin Ayarzagotia 956/389-7425

Neftali Buenrostro 956/389-7426

#### **Region 16 (Laredo)**

Carmen Ramirez 956/721-8457

# YOU CAN CALL ON US

You can get free, confidential help with questions on air, water, waste, or pollution prevention issues from this special section of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA) works for you by:

- providing local environmental assistance when and where it's needed;
- giving small business and local government a voice in TCEQ rule and policy making; and
- communicating technical information in plain language.

## **SBLGA is entirely separate from TCEQ's enforcement program.**

With SBLGA, you benefit from:

- a toll-free hotline and Web site with answers to technical questions on air, water, waste, and pollution prevention;
- industry-specific compliance guidebooks for metal finishers, printers, dry cleaners, auto body and auto repair shops, and facilities making wood and fiberglass products;
- the *Local Government Guide to the TNRCC* (GI-145), a reference book with plain language environmental information; and
- many more services.

*The Advocate is published quarterly by the Small Business and Local Government Assistance Program. Comments or suggestions for future articles should be sent to:*

The Advocate Editor  
Small Business and Environmental  
Assistance Division, MC 106  
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 13087  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

---

**Toll Free**  
**1-800-447-2827**  
(All calls are confidential)  
**Fax: 512/239-1065**

---

**Web Site:**  
**[www.sblga.info](http://www.sblga.info)**



The TCEQ is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. The agency does not allow discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation or veteran status. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document may be requested in alternate formats by contacting the TCEQ at 512/239-0028, Fax 512/239-4488 or 1-800-RELAY-TX (TDD), or by writing P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SMALL BUSINESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSISTANCE DIVISION, MC 106  
TEXAS COMMISSION ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
PO BOX 13087  
AUSTIN TX 78711-3087



PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
AUSTIN, TX  
PERMIT NO. 1967